REMARKS

In response to the Requirement for Election of Species dated February 12, 2003, applicants submit as follows:

Applicants elect species B (standardizing the thickness profile by steaming during pressing) for further prosecution in the above captioned application, on which Claims 35, 37, 49, 51, 52-54, 56, and 72-75 read.

Applicants reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in a divisional application prior to issuance of a patent on the instant application.

The specification has been amended to add the priority information to the specification.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

Bv

Michael C. Stuart Reg. No. 35,698

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210 New York, New York 10176

(212) 687-2770

Dated: March 12, 2003